

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4949

### 1. Name

Historic 245 - 263 North Bruce Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 245 - 263 North Bruce Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check One

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check One

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
 date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of ten two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1890. Their decorative brickwork shows the influence of the Queen Anne style, which became popular for Baltimore rowhouses in the 1880s. The houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted. Today, they are painted in a very distinctive fashion with a wide white arched border framing the doorway area.

The houses are two stories in height, 12'6" wide and occupy lots 55' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel is plain and is decorated with a simple molding strip. In the brick frieze area framed by the lower portion of the brackets and the lower molding strip, two rectangular panels composed of diagonally-set bricks provides decoration and also ventilation for the attic. A similar pattern of brickwork marks the area between the first and second floors. This use of decorative brickwork shows the influence of the Queen Anne style, which became influential in high-style Baltimore buildings in the late 1870s and 1880s.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. Showing the stylistic influence of Queen Anne designs, the wider first floor window is composed of paired 1/1 sash (with a wide center molding strip) set beneath a wide segmentally arched brick lintel with scroll-sawn tympanum. Likewise, the basement window has paired sash set beneath a segmental arch composed of two rows of headers. Second floor sash were originally 2/2, but all are now 1/1 replacement sash. The doorways have single-light transoms and show a variety of replacement door types. The houses sit on medium-height basements. Each front door is reached by four concrete steps.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1890

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses significant as representing the level of architectural stylishness builders were willing to give to small street houses in the late nineteenth century and is testament to the fact that there was no stigma attached to small street living. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast and southwest of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three-bay-wide, two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-bay-wide, two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The houses are especially significant because of their proximity to the slaughterhouses of southwest Baltimore and their related industries, particularly the William Wilkens & Co. Curled Hair Manufactory, one of the largest employers in the area. A number of German-American owned breweries were also located in this section of the city. Moderately-priced housing was built to provide homes for the mainly German immigrants who came to southwest Baltimore to work in these rapidly expanding industries in the decades after the Civil War.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

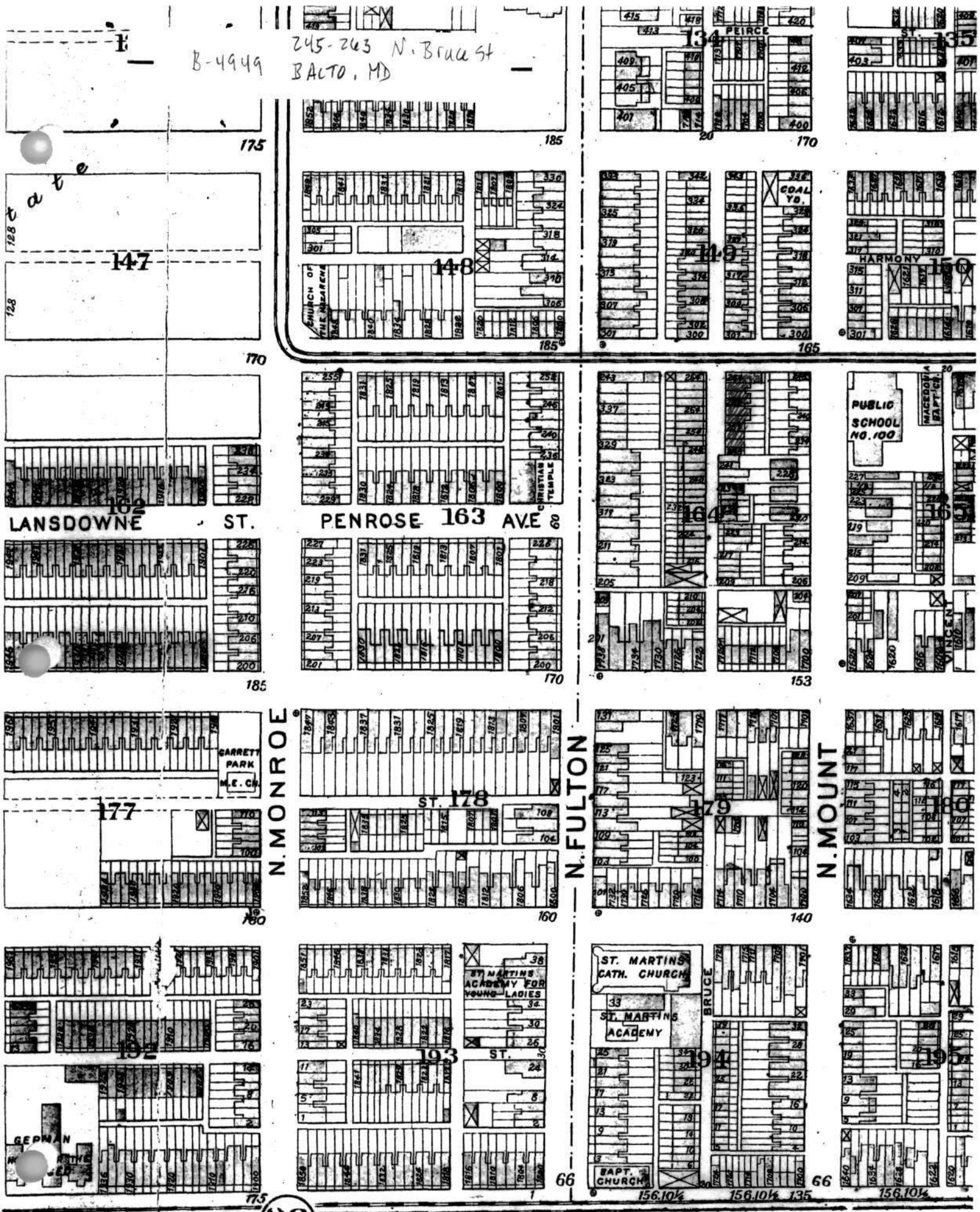
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4949

245-263 N. Bruce St  
BALTO, MD



B-4949

GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

This is a detailed black and white street map of the Harlem neighborhood in New York City. The map shows a grid of streets including Western Avenue, Central Avenue, Lexington Avenue, and Park Avenue. Key landmarks such as the Lutheran Hospital, Bon Secours Hospital, and various parks (Gwynns Falls, Mt. Olivet, and several smaller ones) are labeled. A callout box labeled 'B-4949' points to a specific location on Central Avenue. The map also shows the Harlem River and the Hudson River.



B-4949

245-263 N. Bruce  
St.

BACTO, MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPO

1/2



B-4949

247 N. Bruce St.

BACTO, MD

W. Nield

6100

MD SAPD

212